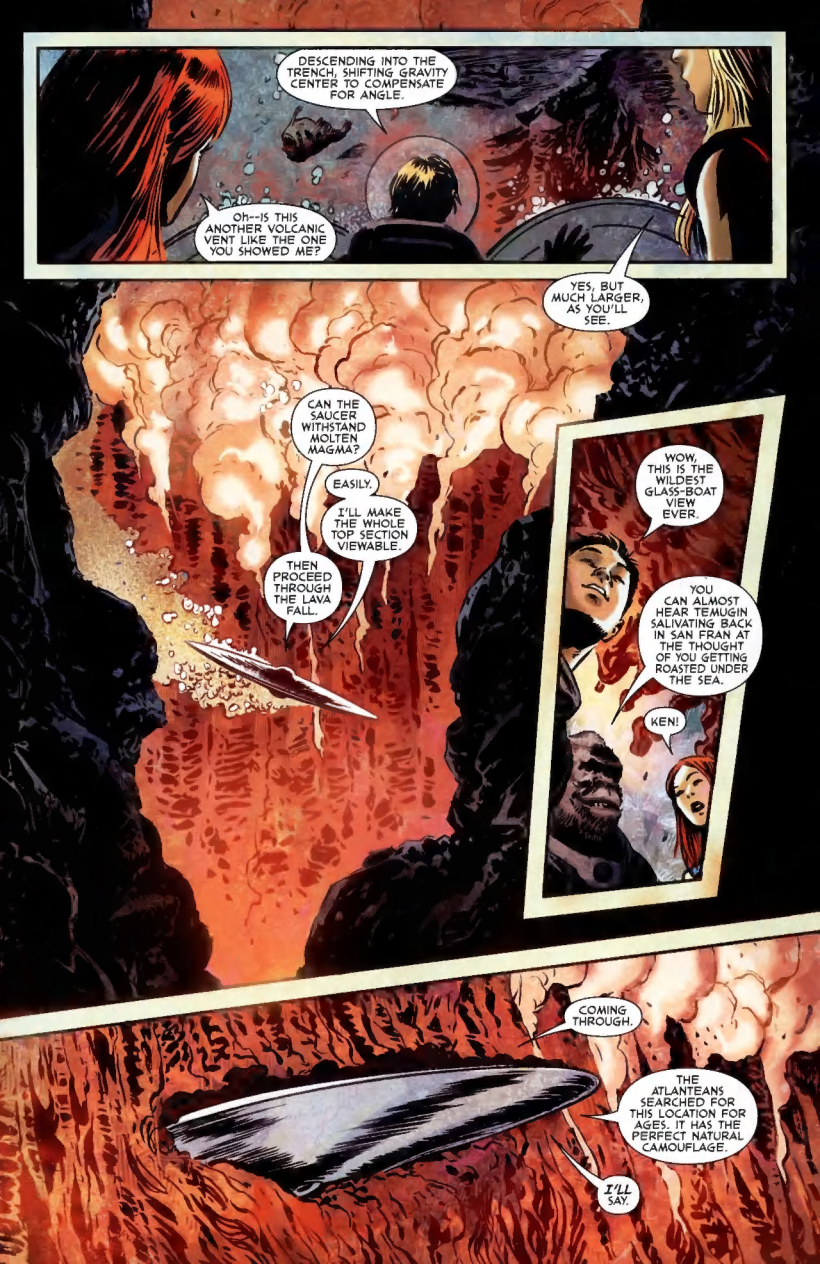
SAN FRANCISCO. LAST NIGHT.
I WAS IN S.H.I.E.L.D. BEFORE IT WAS DISBANDED. I THINK I CAN HANDLE A MID-LEVEL NSA POSITION...
CAN'T WE JUST HAVE AN INTERVIEW? I'M SURE I CAN...
...OKAY. THANK YOU, I'LL SEND IT IN.
NOW NATIONAL SECURITY WON'T SEE YOU?
JUST LIKE THE CIA OR FBI, A CLOSED HOUSE. TO ANYONE WHO WORKED FOR S.H.I.E.L.D., THAT IS.
YOU KNOW, THERE ARE JOBS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, DEREK.
ZARI, YOU DON'T GO FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. TO SOME COMPANY WITHOUT TOP-LEVEL SECURITY. ALL THE ENEMIES THE AGENCY HAD, IT--
GIRLS. THIS WAS PRIVATE.
ARE WE GOING TO HAVE TO MOVE BACK TO WAKANDA? WE FINALLY STARTED MAKING FRIENDS HERE!
IT'S OKAY IF YOU HAVE TO, DAD.
WE'LL ADAPT.
I MAKE YOU ALL ADAPT TOO MUCH.
THANK YOU BOTH.
DON'T YOU WORRY, I'LL FIND SOMETHING.
"SO M-11'S ATTACK HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH A MISSION IN CUBA FIFTY YEARS AGO?"

SUB-MARINER--I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYONE SAY THAT IN QUITE A WHILE.
SORRY, I'M STILL A THROWBACK. THAT'S WHAT I CALLED HIM AS A KID.
NO, NOTHING WRONG WITH IT.
WHERE EXACTLY ARE WE GOING TO FIND NAMOR?
DIDN'T HE... DESTROY ATLANTIS?
YES. I WILL BRIEF YOU AS BEST I CAN.
BOB, CAN YOU LOOP US?
BEGIN ANYTIME, NAMORA.
"SO YES, MY COUSIN BLEW UP HIS OWN KINGDOM AFTER THE SUPERHUMAN CIVIL WAR BECAUSE HE FELT S.H.I.E.L.D. WOULD TRY TO OCCUPY ATLANTIS.
"IT'S IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT HE DIDN'T FEAR ATLANTIS' DEFEAT. HE WANTS TO KEEP HIS PEOPLE *FROM* WAR--WHICH IS WHY HE PUTS HIMSELF OUT AS A ONE-MAN NAVY AGAINST THREATS ABOVE AND BELOW.
"FEW REALIZE THAT ATLANTIS IS A ROYAL CONFEDERATION. WHAT WAS DESTROYED WAS JUST THE MOST FAMILIAR CITY TO THE SURFACE WORLD--THERE ARE OTHER, SMALLER COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE OCEANS.
"MANY FROM THE CAPITAL CITY HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR NOMADIC ROOTS. BUT SOME HAVE SETTLED IN A NEW LOCATION IN THE PACIFIC, WHERE WE HEAD TO NOW. NAMOR IS THERE SUPERVISING WITH THE ATLANTEAN ELDERS."

WE'VE ARRIVED AT YOUR COORDINATES, NAMORA... SUBMERGING...
...NOW.
ATLANTIS FOUGHT ALONGSIDE THE ALLIES BACK IN WORLD WAR II--NAMOR MUST NOT ALWAYS SEE US AS ENEMIES, RIGHT?
HE CERTAINLY DIDN'T THEN.
"HE EMBRACED HIS HUMAN HALF THEN. HE WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THE WORLD OF HIS FATHER.
"WHEN MY HOME OF MARITANUS WAS ATTACKED BY SUBMARINE, HE BROUGHT ME UP TO SEE MY MOTHER'S HOMELAND.
LEONARD MACKENZIE
"THAT'S WHEN THE SURFACE PEOPLE DUBBED ME WITH A VERSION OF HIS NAME SO I'D BE ACCEPTED AS ANOTHER OF A HEROIC FAMILY. FOR A WHILE WE DEFENDED THE SURFACE WORLD...AND ACCEPTED IT."


DESCENDING INTO THE TRENCH, SHIFTING GRAVITY CENTER TO COMPENSATE FOR ANGLE.
OH--IS THIS ANOTHER VOLCANIC VENT LIKE THE ONE YOU SHOWED ME?
YES, BUT MUCH LARGER, AS YOU'LL SEE.
CAN THE SAUCER WITHSTAND MOLTEN MAGMA?
EASILY.
I'LL MAKE THE WHOLE TOP SECTION VIEWABLE.
THEN PROCEED THROUGH THE LAVA FALL.
WOW, THIS IS THE WILDEST GLASS-BOAT VIEW EVER.
YOU CAN ALMOST HEAR TEMUGIN SALIVATING BACK IN SAN FRAN AT THE THOUGHT OF YOU GETTING ROASTED UNDER THE SEA.
KEN!
COMING THROUGH.
THE ATLANTEANS SEARCHED FOR THIS LOCATION FOR AGES. IT HAS THE PERFECT NATURAL CAMOUFLAGE.
I'LL SAY.

SECRETS of the DEEP

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HOO-WHEE! DON'T SEE THAT EVERY DAY.
HOW DID THEY CONSTRUCT ALL THIS SO FAST?
THE ANCIENT ART OF BIO-BUILDING. WE COVER A MINIMAL STRUCTURAL SKELETON WITH RAPID-AGING CORAL THAT GROWS AND PETRIFIES WITHIN MONTHS.
BIO-LUMINESCENT BACTERIA ARE SPREAD ALONG THE TRENCH CEILING AND THE NUTRIENT-RICH LAVA IS USED TO MAKE FERTILE FARM POOLS.
THIS SPOT WAS WRITTEN OF IN OUR TOMES THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.
IT WASN'T UNTIL NAMOR SENT HIS PEOPLE OUT INTO THE AQUATIC DESERTS THAT SOMEONE FINALLY FOUND IT. NOW IT'S COMING TOGETHER AS OCEANUS.

HEY NOW!
YOU'LL SEE MANY THINGS LIKE THAT HERE.
OUR BIOLOGISTS HAVE ONLY BEGUN DOCUMENTING THE MYRIAD CREATURES IN THIS NETHER SEA.
LIKE OTHER POCKETS IN WHICH WE HAVE LIVED, EVOLUTION CONTINUED FOR ANIMALS YOU CONSIDER EXTINCT.
IS THAT WHAT MR. LAO IS? ARE DRAGONS JUST AN EVOLVED FORM OF DINOSAUR?
YES. I EXAMINED THE SCALES OF HIS WE USED TO PASS THROUGH THE DRAGON'S CORRIDOR--IT CLOSELY MATCHES FOSSIL DNA.
I'D BE FINE WITH OUR ROYAL ADVISOR GOING EXTINCT.
SOME TIME BEFORE WE HEAD BACK TO THE HIDDEN CITY MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO TALK ABOUT HIM.
HE'S GOT AGENDAS FROM BEFORE WE WERE BORN, AND IT'S TIME TO FIGURE OUT JUST WHAT THEY ARE.
IF WE WANT TO TAKE--
HELL!
WHOOOM

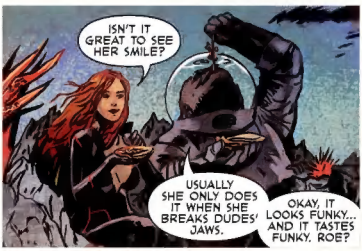
AS I SAID...
...A ONE-MAN NAVY.
NO ONE ENTERS THIS PLACE WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM ITS KING...
NAMOR
OF ATLANTIS!

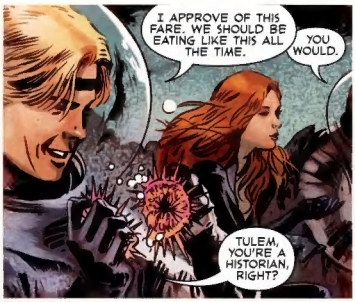
THEY COME WITH ME.
THIS IS THE TEAM THAT SAVED ME.
THEN THEY MUST--
OH. THAT TEAM.
VERY WELL, LET US MEET.
GREETINGS, YOUR HIGHNESS. I'M CALLED VENUS.
ROBERT GRAYSON, OR, DAMIAN.
THE NAME'S SPOOZY MCGASBAG. GOOD TO MEET'CHA.
HIS NAME'S KEN HALE. THE ROBOT IS M-11.
AND I'M JIMMY WOO. FORMER FBI, NOW I RUN THE ATLAS FOUNDATION. IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
NOT THAT I CARE ABOUT WHAT SURFACE COUNTRIES CONSIDER LAWS, BUT IS ATLAS NOT A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION?
IT'S COMPLICATED. SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT IT HERE?
NO, YOU ARE WITH A PRINCESS OF THE REALM. WE WILL DINE FIRST.
NOW THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. FINALLY WE GET SOME ROYAL TREATMENT!
BOB, ARE YOU WITH HIM?
I AM.

CHINATOWN, SAN FRANCISCO.
BOMBPA BOMBPA BOMBPA
HAI! HAI! HAI! HAI!
ZAO CHEN HAO! WE CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF LING'S TEA HOUSE--COME FOR A FREE LUNCH ON LING!
Huh? Oh.
THANKS, I'LL...BE NEEDING THIS.
TAKE ZIRI THERE IF THEY DON'T USE MS... ...G...
LING'S TEA HOUSE
ONE FREE LUNCH
And an Offer for
Derek Khanata
HEY! HEY, WHO ARE YOU? WAIT!
"IMAGINE OUR SURPRISE WHEN OUR PRODIGY DARTED OUT AFTER THAT CREATURE!"

--AND THE LITTLE DEVIL RAY PUSHED THE WHALE AROUND THE CITY FROM INSIDE ITS MOUTH!
EVERYONE THOUGHT THE BEAST WAS ATTACKING!
HA! WHAT A ROTTEN GIRL!
TULEM, THEY USED TO HAVE SOME RESPECT FOR ME.

NOT WHEN I'M DONE, AQUARIA NEPTUNA! EMBARRASSING THE ROYALS IS THE PRIME DUTY OF AN ATLANTEAN ELDER.
CAN WE HEAR ABOUT YOUR WORK INSTEAD?


ISN'T IT GREAT TO SEE HER SMILE?
USUALLY SHE ONLY DOES IT WHEN SHE BREAKS DUDES' JAWS.
OKAY, IT LOOKS FUNKY... AND IT TASTES FUNKY, ROE?

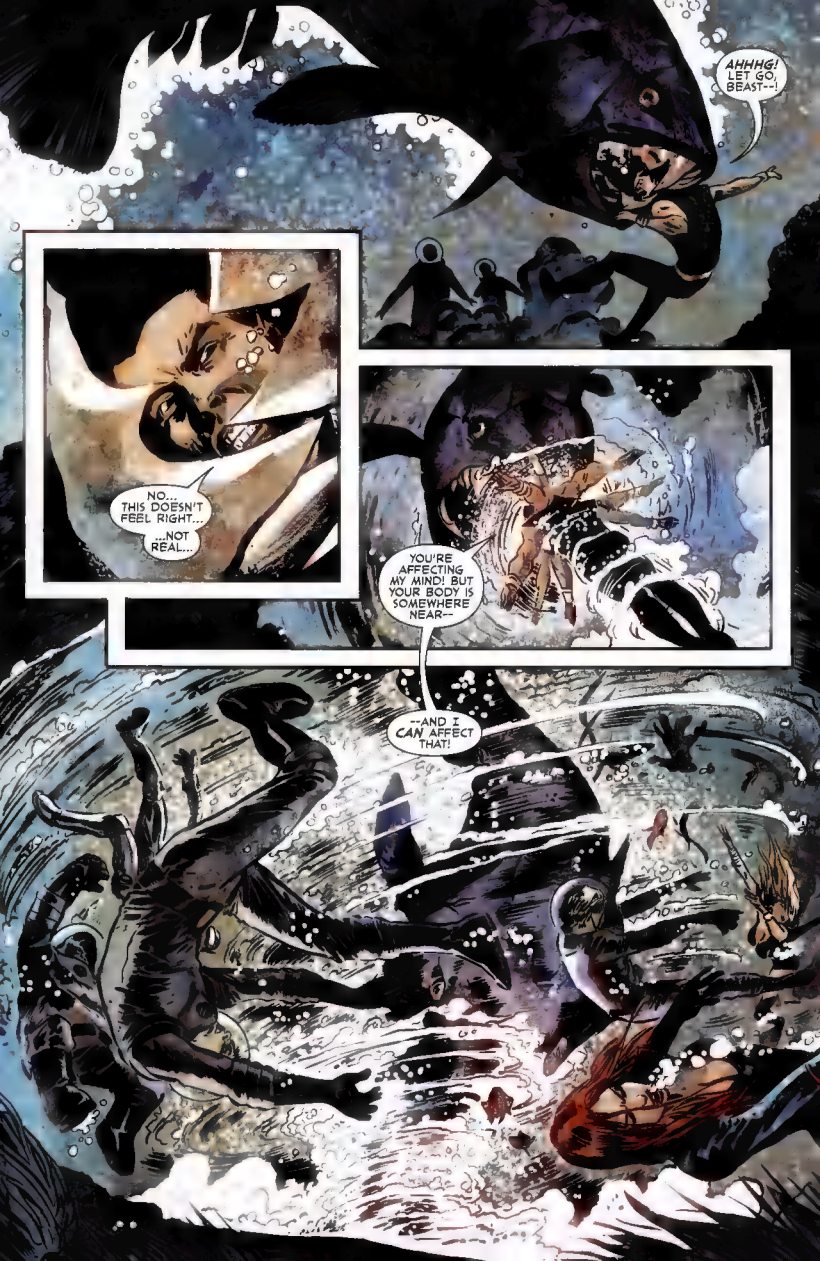

I APPROVE OF THIS FARE. WE SHOULD BE EATING LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME.
YOU WOULD.
TULEM, YOU'RE A HISTORIAN, RIGHT?

INADVERTENTLY. MY ACTUAL CALLING IS AS ROYAL MINISTER OF SCIENCE, WITH BIOLOGY AS MY FOCUS.
BUT I FIND THE DISCIPLINES PERPETUALLY INTERTWINED.

THE ROYAL GARDENS ARE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL NOW.
EVERYTHING GROWS BETTER HERE. WE HAVE TRULY FOUND WHERE WE BELONG.
ALL OF US.
FINDING OUT ANYTHING YET, BOB?
NO. EXCEPT THAT HE THINKS NAMORA SHOULD REMAIN BEHIND.
MINDS ARE BIG, AND TO SEARCH THEM YOU MUST HAVE PATHS TO FOLLOW. HE'S VERY SINGLE-MINDED.
WOO, I WILL NOT STAND ON CEREMONY. FOR WHATEVER REASON, NEPTUNA FEELS INDEBTED TO YOU.
WHEN WILL YOU RELEASE HER TO RETURN TO HER HOME?
Ah-- Huh?
NAMORA IS HER OWN WOMAN, I DON'T CALL HER SHOTS.
NO, AND NEITHER DO YOU.
IF NOT FOR THEM I WOULD STILL BE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ARCTIC, FROZEN AND FORGOTTEN!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD! THE PHYSICIANS REPORTED IT SO!
I WOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT YOU!

ANYTHING YET?
YOU COULD HAVE BROUGHT BACK MY BODY FROM BYRRAH EVEN IF YOU THOUGHT I WAS DEAD!
IT'S COMING...
KEEPING THIS NATION TOGETHER AND ALIVE DOES TAKE SOME OF MY TIME!
WE ARE THE LAST OF THE ROYAL LINES. I AM THE ONLY ONE OUR PEOPLE WILL ANSWER TO!
AND I AM NEEDED ABOVE. I DON'T SEE WHY YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT.
OCEANUS COULD BE THE NEW CENTER OF ATLANTEAN CIVILIZATION.
YOUR STATUS AND POWER ARE NEEDED HERE--
--MORE THAN THEY ARE REQUIRED TO BUILD ARTILLERY FOR NORMAN OSBORN!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING--ONE OF OSBORN'S INNER CIRCLE!
IX-NAY ON THE ABAI-CAY...
WELL THAT DIDN'T TAKE ANY TIME.
I WILL DEAL WITH WHOEVER IT TAKES TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF THIS NATION! I'M NOT ARMING OSBORN!
NEITHER ARE WE!
NAMORA!
DEALINGS WITH THE SURFACE ARE ALWAYS FLEETING. WE WILL LONG OUTLIVE THEIR RULERS.
EVEN IF OSBORN BECAME THE PRESIDENT IT WOULD STILL BE ONLY A SHORT TIME BEFORE HE WAS GONE.
ATLANTIS IS FOREVER.

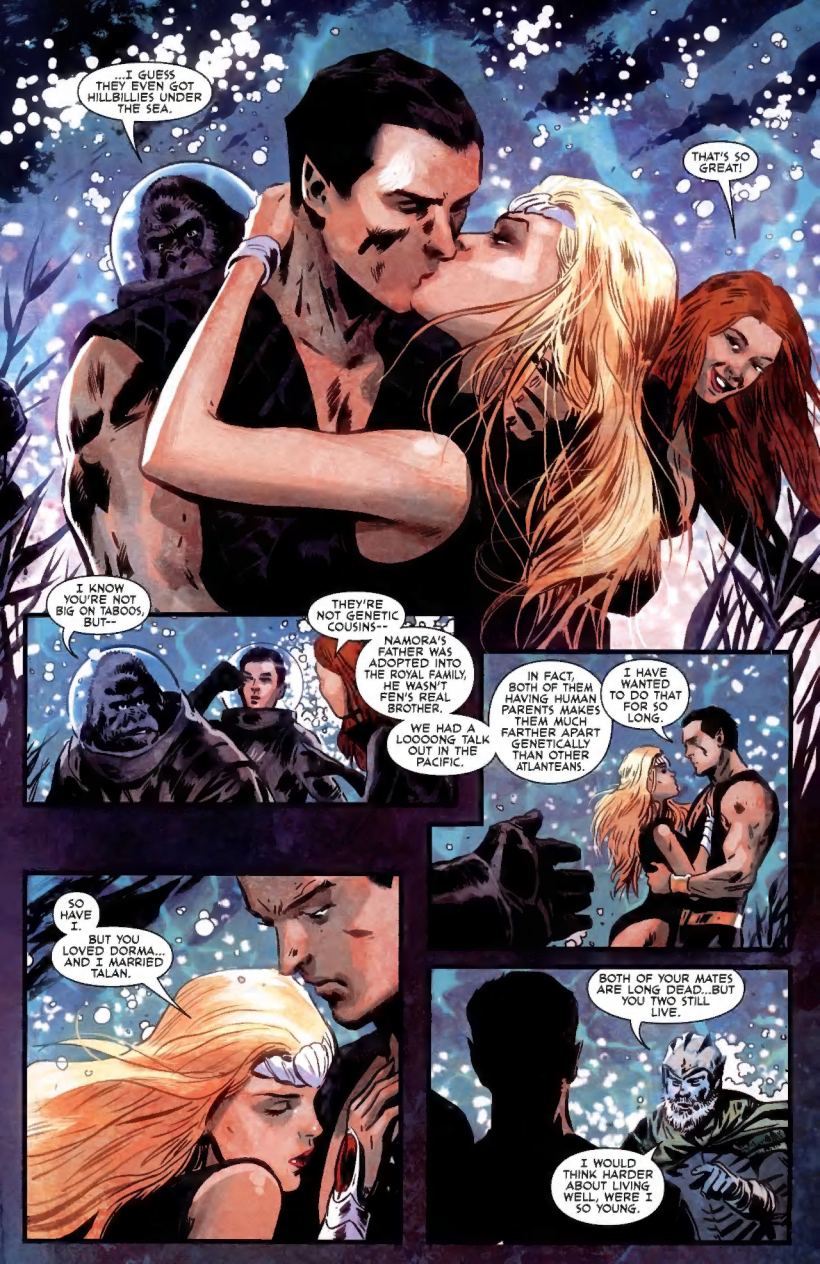
JIMMY, HE HAS NO INTENTION OF SPEAKING TO OSBORN ABOUT US. HE WOULD NEVER BETRAY NAMORA.
OF COURSE I WOULD NOT!
DID HE JUST...READ MY MIND?
NO ONE MAY DO THAT!
WHAT?!


AHHHG! LET GO, BEAST--!
NO... THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT...
...NOT REAL...
YOU'RE AFFECTING MY MIND! BUT YOUR BODY IS SOMEWHERE NEAR--
--AND I CAN AFFECT THAT!

YRAAH!
ZZISH
THEY'VE ATTACKED THE KING!
TROOPS,
DEFEND THE KING!
HEADS UP!
THIS IS GETTING WORSE!
Nnh-- WAIT, I'LL STOP IT...

NO MACHINE TOUCHES MY PEOPLE!
Oh HELLZ, YOU SCREWED UP AND TOUCHED THE ROBOT...
UNHAND HIM!
HE IS THE ONE WHO KNEW I WAS ALIVE!
I'VE GOT YOU, V!
HURRY, I'LL STOP IT BEFORE ANYONE GETS HURT!
HOW'S YOUR SONG UNDER-WATER?
GORILLA, DON'T EVEN--I'M SO POTENT IN WATER.
Ah-hem.
CRAP, GOTTA GET MY EARPIECES IN BEFORE I MAKE AN ASS OF MYSELF AGAIN!
♪ Laaaa-la-la-la-eeee... ♪
SHOOT, WHERE'S MINE?

♫ Hoooo-lllaaaaaaahhh... lai-eee-luuUUU... ♪
THE LOVE GRENADE WORKS AGAIN.
♫aleeeeeyYyy...
LOOKS LIKE I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT MY EAR...
AW, BOB, NO... THAT AIN'T RIGHT.
♪ haileeeee ♪
HOW'D I DO?
I DON'T HEAR ANY COMPLAINING, BUT...um...


...I GUESS THEY EVEN GOT HILLBILLIES UNDER THE SEA.
THAT'S SO GREAT!
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT BIG ON TABOOS, BUT--
THEY'RE NOT GENETIC COUSINS--
NAMORA'S FATHER WAS ADOPTED INTO THE ROYAL FAMILY, HE WASN'T FEN'S REAL BROTHER.
WE HAD A LOOOONG TALK OUT IN THE PACIFIC.
I HAVE WANTED TO DO THAT FOR SO LONG.
IN FACT, BOTH OF THEM HAVING HUMAN PARENTS MAKES THEM MUCH FARTHER APART GENETICALLY THAN OTHER ATLANTEANS.
SO HAVE I.
BUT YOU LOVED DORMA... AND I MARRIED TALAN.
BOTH OF YOUR MATES ARE LONG DEAD...BUT YOU TWO STILL LIVE.
I WOULD THINK HARDER ABOUT LIVING WELL, WERE I SO YOUNG.

TWO DAYS LATER.
THIS IS NOT WORKING OUT AT ALL.
NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE NO INSIDE TRACK ON TAKING DOWN OSBORN, BUT THE LONGER WE STAY THE MORE IT LOOKS LIKE NAMORA ISN'T COMING BACK WITH US.
I THINK WE SHOULD BE HAPPY FOR HER. SHE'S HAD A LOT OF PAIN IN HER LIFE.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF PAIN IN OURS WITHOUT OUR HEAVY HITTER.
"PRIMATE."
THAT'S TWELVE AND ON A DOUBLE WORD SCORE...
ARE YOU HER FRIEND OR NOT?
PERHAPS SHE COULD COMMUTE.
I WOULDN'T MIND COMING DOWN HERE TO PICK HER UP FOR MISSIONS.
THIS IS A GOOD ENVIRONMENT FOR YOU, ISN'T IT?
PLUS IT'S GOT ALL THOSE SMOKIN' HOT ANEMONES NOT WEARIN' A STITCH...
SCRAB
DEXT
GOOD MORNING. IS EVERYONE READY TO TOUR THE PLATO CREVICE WITH TULEM TODAY?
YOU BET, SEA QUEEN.
WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

EVERY DAY WE ARE FINDING NEW BIOLOGICAL WONDERS IN THIS CREVICE.
AS A SCIENTIST, I'M ALMOST UNEASY WITH HOW CLOSELY THIS AREA FALLS INTO OUR CREATION MYTH.
PERSONALLY, I THINK SCIENCE AND MYTH GO HAND IN HAND, BUT THAT'S JUST ME.
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU LIKE THE IDEA OF A GODLIKE COUPLE RETURNING TO A GARDEN OF ORIGIN.
AGAIN, THAT COULD JUST BE ME.
PERCEPTIVE. YES, I DO THINK A NEW MYTH OF TWO GREAT ATLANTEANS WILL INSPIRE OUR PEOPLE TO RECLAIM ALL THEY HAVE LOST.
AND WHAT ABOUT OUR LOSS?
I KNOW YOU HATE TO LOSE NAMORA AS MUCH AS WE WISH TO REGAIN HER. BUT DO KNOW THAT THIS MAKES YOUR TIES TO US VERY STRONG.
JUST AS OUR EXODUS FOUND US THIS CHANCE TO THRIVE AGAIN...
...YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF CHANGE WILL ONLY SHAPE YOUR TEAM FOR GREATER POSSIBILITIES.
THAT OLD DUFFER CAN'T STOP POOPIN' WISDOM, CAN HE?
HE'S RIGHT THAT I NEED TO GET MORE ZEN AND START ACCEPTING REALITY.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO.

THIS PLACE IS POSITIVELY BURSTING WITH LIFE!
IT IS FECUND. ONCE WE UNDERSTAND HOW TO MAINTAIN THE PROPER BALANCE, IT WILL FEED OCEANUS FOR MILLENNIA.

ADMIT IT, THERE IS NOTHING LIKE THIS PLACE ON THE SURFACE.
NO, BUT THERE NEEDS TO BE.

THE WHOLE PLANET SHOULD BE AS HEALTHY AND WELCOMING AS THIS PARADISE DEEP.
NEXT: THE DEPTHS OF DESIRE!